

SUGGESTED SUBCOMMITTEES FOR WASTE TASK FORCE

Land Use Subcommittee

Possible Topics: Liabilities and risks of waste management options
Land use implications of waste management options
Management of problem wastes
State and regional disposal capacity

Sample Questions: Does the current system of financial responsibility for landfills adequately account for their environmental and financial liabilities?

Should additional items (mercury; electronics; plastic film; organic wastes) be banned from land disposal in Wisconsin?

At what rate should Wisconsin develop waste disposal capacity?

Should Wisconsin promote regional landfills?

Should Wisconsin identify areas within the state that are “off-limits” to landfills?

What should the role of alternative waste disposal technologies (waste-to-energy; conversion; bioreactors) be in Wisconsin?

Economics Subcommittee

Possible Topics: True “cost” of various waste management options
Variables impacting “cost” during private vs public management
Roles of private and public sector in waste management
Economic incentives for waste minimization

Sample Questions: Who should be responsible for management of wastes?

Are the levels of government currently charged with managing wastes best suited for the task?

What are the institutional barriers that prevent the “highest value” use of a waste material?

Do Wisconsin counties and municipalities have sufficient authority to effectively plan and implement waste management strategies?

What economic incentives and disincentives might work more efficiently to reduce waste generation by residents and businesses?

Does the market price for land disposal in Wisconsin reflect the full costs of land disposal?

Does the market price for recycling in Wisconsin reflect the total costs of recycling the materials?

What is the economic value of materials “lost” to landfills?

Waste Reduction Subcommittee

Possible Topics: Plateauing of recycling rate
 Cradle-to-cradle strategies for waste minimization
 Management of organic wastes
 Extended producer responsibility for product wastes

Sample Questions: What are the best opportunities for increasing the recovery rate of useful materials otherwise destined for land disposal?

 Whose responsibility should it be to manage product wastes?

 Do the current regulatory systems and industry structures allow for significant improvements in recycling rates?

 Is the current state recycling program designed to accomplish its goals efficiently? If not, what improvements can be made?

 Can Wisconsin make fundamental changes in materials management effectively by itself?